

Spring 2014  
Croxall  
ENG 389-003

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Database: SAPROD9		EMORY COLLEGE COURSE AND INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION SPRING 2014										Run Time: 15:56:01					
Class Number: 3157		Course Name and Section: ENG 389W 003					Instructor: Croxall,Brian Lynn										
Maximum Enrollment: 25		Total Enrolled: 22		Number of Evaluation Forms: 20													
Class		Expected Grade			Major												
First Year		1	A	9	Biology										2		
Second Year		4	A-	5	Business										1		
Third Year		11	B+		Chemistry										1		
Fourth Year +		4	B	3	Economics										3		
Graduate			B-		English										4		
Non-Degree			C+		English & Creative Writing										2		
Unreported/Unreadable			C	2	Neuroscience & Behav Biology										1		
Total		20	C-		Psychology										1		
Sex			D+		Psychology & Linguistics										1		
Male		11	D		Invalid/Unreadable										3		
Female		9	D-														
Unreported/Unreadable			F														
Total		20	S														
			U														
Percent Classes Missed			Unreported/Unreadable	1													
0		3	Total	20													
1-5%		10	Reason Taking Course														
6-10%		4	College Requirement	11													
11-15%		1	Major	6													
16-20%			Prerequisite														
21-25%			Pre-Prof Reqmt	2													
26-30%			Interested	7													
31-40%																	
41-50%																	
51-60%																	
61-80%																	
81-99%																	
Unreported/Unreadable		2															
Total		20															
Comparison Key:																	
A - Same Size Sections (21-45) 257 sections																	
B - Same Level (300) 294 Sections																	
C - Same Format (LEC) 723 Sections																	
D - Same Subject (ENG) 49 Sections																	

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English Department  
Course Evaluation

Semester and Year: Spring 2014

Course: English 389W

Section: 003 (OPUS #3157)

Instructor: **Brian Croxall**

1. Write a letter to future students in the class (or other classes I teach), letting them know what you think is most important about the instructor, the course, the assignments, and the reading.

Dear future students,  
You have made a wise decision to take this class with Professor Croxall. This class will probably be unlike any class you've had before. I am not going to lie, a lot of the readings are rather difficult and may have you thinking "WTF", however the assignments and class discussion you will have about these readings are awesome and super interesting. Speaking of awesome, professor Croxall is one of my favorite instructors I've had. I am not an English person at all, however taking this class has opened up my mind and way of thinking about readings and general life thoughts/experiences. Professor Croxall will throw curveballs in his assignments but do not fret; the assignments are usually group work which facilitates completing each task. Digital Humanities was one of my top classes at Emory and I am glad I was able to take it before I graduate.

Sincerely,

A happy student

PS. A note about the assignments, DO NOT ~~save~~ procrastinate! In this class there is a lot of frequent small assignments that need to be kept up with.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

The website should be kept because it was a great and useful learning experience.  
Also AMBP should be kept because HOL is awesome.

~~The website~~ keep

I do not think any should be cut,  
= felt that were all important

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Dear future students,

You guys should take this class, with only this professor. Digital Humanities is a growing field in the English world and there are no other classes ~~in~~ in this school where you can learn so much about online tools to analyze texts, social media, and even your writing. As long as you put in effort: Dr. Croxall sees you are trying, you'll get ~~an~~ a great experience: an "A."

There is a lot of reading for this class and busy work to do each week (well this is a 300 level course). I loved managing my own website, something that will definitely carry me far.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

We should definitely keep the House of Leaves Project. I really liked how we were able to link what we learned to social media & even see how other classes around the US post media on the same project.

That said, the one assignment where we found a word trend in "The World's Wife" & "The Other Country" using Voyant should be cut/modified. Working in a group for this assignment was somewhat difficult to do in a group setting because finding a word trend w/ other members had no consistency. For instance, there were many themes to play with in a short frame of time. Perhaps if it was done individually, that would've gave better results.

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Of course an English professor would make us write a letter as a course evaluation. But that just shows what type of professor he is - in everything he assigns/talks about, he tries to make the students get the most out of it, whether it be analyzing poems in all sorts of ways or using different technological tools in order to look at works of texts in different manners. He enjoys a good joke and students with personality, and don't be afraid to speak up in class because he's never made me feel dumb or as if my answer was sub-par. He's an extremely fair grader, even a bit generous. As for the overall course, it's cool. Working w/ tools I've never known about, creating websites - this is a class that is really all about building. So it's not just your tools in order to analyze in ways that you know will produce unique results. Take the course, you'll get out just as much as you put in.



2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

Kept - Dalloway mapping project - so unique! Never thought you could get much from seeing where/when people go, but that project, and understanding the people/places you encounter reflect your life is a powerful theme for the class.

cut - none really, but HoL could be tweaked so students could get more out of it

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One of the most important things you must do is to start blog posts early, and do as many as you can early in the semester. In order to get a good grade on blog posts you must spend a lot of time researching readings and authors. By allowing yourself as much time as possible and doing many posts early on you can make up for missed weeks and poor scores.

Also it is important to do reading as early as possible b/c at times during the semester completing readings, blogs, and work for other courses will become impossible if you have not done readings in advance.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

I thought all of the assignments were necessary, but it would be helpful to have more time on House of Leaves and maybe spend a little less time on the Duffy poetry.

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The most important things in this class are to keep up with the reading and to think outside the box. The whole feeling behind this class, and Professor Croxall, is that we should set out to form new and unique opinions about the world around us and figure out new ways to filter the information we process.

If you see a tiny little reference in a reading, research it, zoom in on it, highlight it, and blog about it. Professor Croxall wants to squeeze every last bit of information juice out of each work we come across, and that is what makes him a fun and exciting (and refreshing) teacher.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

- House of Leaves project should absolutely be kept. Even though it can be a headache to read, there is no other reading experience like it.

- In my opinion, the Mapping Dalloway project should absolutely be cut. It seemed like the project with the least wiggle room to be creative, and I did not gain a whole lot from seeing the movements of Woolf's characters across London (this is already described to us in the novel, no?).

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Dearest future student,

So you want to take a class with Croxall, eh? Bravo. Here are some things you may want to know:

- He does care about his job and about how the class learns, and his assignments reflect that.
  - He isn't stuck in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Lectures and assignments take advantage of many of the technological wonders of our time (not just the word processor).
  - The reading may be heavy at times but I'm worth it.
  - He is not always terribly familiar with the text, which is why we think when he walks in with headphones he has the book-on-tape in there.
- Overall I'd recommend him. The workman style of ~~teaching~~ teaching leads to easier and more rewarding learning.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

Keep

House of Leaves project.

Regardless if AMBP still exists then it is a great project. We're looking at the novel in a novel way. Found more stuff in there thanks to thinking about the book in a different way.

Cut

Mrs. Dalloway

I'll admit I'm a fan of Virginia Woolf. I never liked the books and I guess that could have affected how I felt about the assignment.

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Dear future students,

Professor Croxall is a really funny guy and does a good job of keeping class interesting. That being said as interesting as he may be, the readings are not so interesting. Given that this is extremely subjective ~~and~~ that is how I felt personally based on my background. The assignments can be tedious or fun depending on what you make of them. Still looking back the class exposed me to an idea that I never knew existed - digital humanities. I do recommend the class and the professor, but to me personally the idea of digital humanities sounds more interesting than it actually is. ~~that~~

Regards,

Current Student



2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

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Dr Croxall is an awesome professor. The workload seems like a lot and sometimes it is a lot because of the reading assignments but everything is definitely manageable. He also adapts and changes assignments based on how the class is going so don't be surprised if he changes his mind about readings or the schedule. In the end, the changes worked out to be more beneficial as there were less readings and more time for them. That being said, definitely read what he assigns. He doesn't call anyone (usually) but he did give us reading quizzes towards the end of the semester when he felt like no one was actually reading.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

House of Leaves assignment should definitely be kept. It was a lot of fun and creative to have us make notes that were relevant to the stories going on in the novel. It also forced me to read the novel and watch out for any interesting scenes, which I loved because HOL is actually an amazing book.

Voyant assignment wasn't necessarily the most educational and relevant assignment. Although there were some cool tools that we got to play with, most of them weren't necessarily fully developed so getting any new insight about the Duffy poems was somewhat limited.

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Dear Future Students,

Congratulations on taking a class by this professor! I think you will have an ultimately rewarding experience with this professor, as he will teach you a very fresh new way of looking at ~~poetry~~ literature and technology and the way we put them together.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

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Dear Student(s),

Intro. to Digital Humanities is a very interesting course. I highly recommend taking this course with Dr. Croxall. It is very important to keep up with readings and assignments because it is easy to fall behind. I advise doing the readings far in advance so the blog post can be written and submitted before the routinely deadline. Some of the projects in this course can be frustrating, but each project is a learning opportunity. This course encourages you to think outside-the-box in order to derive more creative analysis of written text. After all, DH is about building, creating, coding, and sharing.

Sincerely,

A former student

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

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If you want a relevant cont. Writing req. take this class. Croxall is a good guy who is laid back but still organized, and most assignments are not killer. Readings are fine, some articles though are really boring. Again, take this class, especially if you need a wrt. req.



2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

HOL needs to be kept because  
I felt it was the most  
engaging.

Mapping. 'Mrs Dalloway' sucked.  
Bad novel and there are much  
better books you could do the  
assignment with.

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*Make it personal.*

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

Definitely keep Duffy, it had variety, cutting edge tech. development, encouraged personal interpretations of material, all around interesting and exciting.

Cut A Million Blue Pages. It's both confusing and not very rewarding, since it doesn't ask anything of students they don't already know how to do but it is also extremely vague.

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Dear Future Students,

I think that yes the instructor is very enthusiastic about the subject and you can tell he loves what he does and that does inspire students. The course is designed

for the teen savvy modern english student and corresponding w/ the assignments as well. Although I feel the assignments could of been distributed more evenly. The readings were interesting though I wished more spread out especially for House of Leaves.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

The Duffy (MARBL) assignment should be kept. I found it most fascinating + interesting.

The Dalloway assignment should be cut b/c while I found it interesting I felt we could've done something more w/ the novel.

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Hello future student.

You're going to enjoy this class. The teacher is really good about asking questions and trying to facilitate conversation (speak up, by the way. Otherwise, it's awkward), and he knows his subject extremely well. The course itself is interesting. Although we spent a lot of time doing regular english class work (great), there were some days where we read about digital humanities, and that was particularly fun. Be warned, the assignments are really innovative, but they're mostly group projects. So be sure you can play well with others. Also, be sure to read. The books are interesting, *House of Leaves* in particular very cool, but you have to close-read them. If you come in ready to interact, you'll have a good time.

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

I think the AMBP one should stay, because it's an opportunity to record our thoughts on the book as we go, which is something that's really best facilitated through the internet. Perfect for DH.

The Voyant assignment should be cut, because it was confusing to use, pointless to do it in groups, and really difficult to reach conclusions about with our material.

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Hey,

Let me give you the low-down.

1. Don't say things/write papers/etc. that you think he wants to hear. He respects students' opinions (if they're well ~~defended~~ defended!)

2) The course is only as good as you make it, so "drink the punch" by doing readings and participating

3) The assignments are fun but at times seem haphazard<sup>(no <sup>true</sup> grading rubric)</sup>; the reading on the topic of DH are hit and miss, but the fiction reading & poetry are amazing



2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

1 absolutely keep: Blogging about Duffy's manuscript in NARBOL

Incredibly fun and utilizing a huge resource

2) Absolutely cut: Distant Reading Duffy  
too abstract, no real gains

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To future students,

When you see that ~~this~~ is a four-credit, writing intensive course... Believe It. Do not go into ~~this~~ class with the idea that it will be a simple, easy A. It won't be. There's a lot of reading. A lot of writing. And a lot of hands-on participation required during out-of-class hours, so if you are a very busy person... ~~this~~ may be a struggle for you.

That said, the content of ~~this~~ course is extremely interesting, and you will find yourself looking at old text in new ways - and new text in newer ways! The instructor is fantastic and enthusiastic about the subject matter, and the assignments you will be given are always integrating various forms of media and critical thinking. A.k.a, if you struggle with one project, it is not the end of the world! There are plenty of chances to score high and get the most out of this course - if you're willing to put in the time and effort!

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

House of Leaves should definitely be kept for future iterations. Even if AMBP becomes unavailable, just the reading and analysis itself was too fascinating to lose.

I believe the Mrs. Dalloway assignment should be cut. While the project itself was insightful, with the maps, I'm not sure Virginia Woolf's literature was my favorite avenue for discovering those digital humanist tools.

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Dear Future Student,

Professor Croxall is passionate about the Digital Humanities. Very passionate. He gets super involved with our projects and gets giddy when we hit upon a new idea in our digital scholarship. Although this passion is good in the sense that it helps to make the class more interesting, it is also problematic in the sense that it forces students to engage in assignments and projects without having the freedom to be honest with him. Too often I have written reviews of our projects and have withheld some of my feelings because of how I thought they would be considered by the ~~class~~ super-passionate Professor Croxall. He's a very nice man and a good professor, but it seems difficult to disagree with him and say anything negative about the Digital Humanities.

Sincerely,  
Current Student

2. Of all the assignments we completed, which one should **absolutely** be kept for future iterations of the course and which one should **absolutely** be cut? Why?

I think that the Mapping Mrs. Dalloway project should be kept, while the Million Blue Pages project should be cut. The Mapping Mrs. Dalloway exercise seemed useful because it shed light on an aspect of literature that I had never considered before. It made me rethink the way <sup>that</sup> I read and ~~demonstrated~~ <sup>demonstrated</sup> interesting patterns in Woolf's writing.

I would get rid of the AMBP assignment because it didn't seem to show anything relevant about House of Leaves. None of the "nodes" I created taught me anything about the novel, and everyone else's nodes seemed to be similarly done for a completion grade. The entire project took a disproportionate amount of time and effort, but I felt that I gained little from the exercise.